

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amendments to the specification are contained in the attached substitute specification (without markings) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.125. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125, a copy of the substitute specification showing changes is also attached herewith. The attached substitute specification contains no new matter.

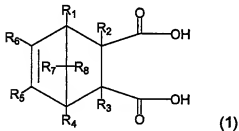
II. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15 and 17 as follows.

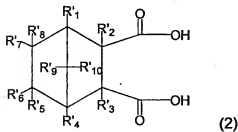
The following claims replace all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by a general formula (1),



wherein, R₁ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, or an anhydride derivative thereof, or (2),



wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, or an anhydride derivative thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or an anhydridea-derivative thereof, and the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or an anhydridea derivative thereof; and

(b) mixing the mixture with a basic compound and a solvent; and

(c) filtering the mixture obtained in step (b) to separate an aqueous phase and a solid phase.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or an anhydridea-derivative thereof.

3. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the basic compound is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.2 equivalents relative to the endo isomer, and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than the larger of either 10 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture or 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the endo isomer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 2, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or

an anhydride-derivative thereof is 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or an anhydride-derivative thereof.

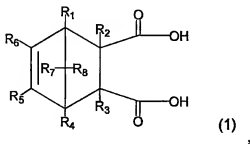
6. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, wherein said dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a carboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) or an anhydride-derivative thereof.

7. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the basic compound is used in a quantity that achieves at least 0.35 equivalents and no more than 8 equivalents relative to the mixture.

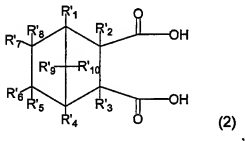
8. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to either claim 6, wherein the solvent is used in a quantity of at least 0.7 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture, and no more than 20 g relative to 6 mmol of the mixture.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 6, wherein the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) or an anhydride-derivative thereof is norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid or an anhydride-derivative thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by a general formula (1),



wherein, R₁ to R₈ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group,
or (2),



wherein, R'₁ to R'₁₀ represent a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or butyl group, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mixture comprising mainly the endo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2), and the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2); and

(b) mixing the mixture with a solvent; and

(c) filtering the mixture obtained in step (b) to separate an aqueous phase and a solid phase;

11. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1).

12. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 11, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) is a salt of 5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 10, wherein said salt of a dicarboxylic acid consists essentially of a salt of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2), with a solvent.

14. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 13, wherein the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (2) is a salt of norbornane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 1, ~~wherein step (c) is a further comprising the step of filtering a mixture~~ obtained from the mixing step, and either obtaining an endo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) as a liquid phase, or obtaining an exo isomer of a salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) as a solid phase.

16. (Original) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2), from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the salt of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2).

17. (Currently Amended) The method of separating an endo isomer and an exo isomer according to either-claim 15, further comprising the step of obtaining an endo isomer or an exo isomer of an anhydride of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) from the endo isomer or the exo isomer of the dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) An endo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.

19. (Withdrawn) An exo isomer of a dicarboxylic acid represented by the general formula (1) or (2) or a derivative thereof, obtained using the method according to claim 1.